

more effectively enforced within the borders of our State. It is common knowledge that without bed space, you cannot arrest and deport illegal aliens. With the help of our office, he secured a 15-year agreement with the Immigration Service and an \$8.4 million expansion grant. This grant added over 300 detention beds, more than doubling the number in the existing facility.

When the Immigration Service turned over control of the facility to its New Orleans Field Office after September 11, 2001, Sheriff Hayes further demonstrated his commitment to a successful immigration enforcement system in Alabama by initiating a movement to return oversight for the Etowah County Federal Detention Facility to Immigration Services' Atlanta Field Office. He firmly believed that the beds would be used more effectively under the direction of the Atlanta Field Office, which was hundreds of miles closer and wanted to use the facility for short term, instead of long-term, immigration detainees. Just 2 weeks before his death, I received notification from the Immigration Service that his multiple year-long effort was not in vain. DHS had fully evaluated his position, and had decided to grant his request. My office was able to communicate the good news that his persistence had been met with success to Sheriff Hayes just before his passing.

I am confident that Sheriff Hayes' diligent efforts over the last several years have ensured a more effective Federal partnership with law enforcement in Alabama for years to come. As I read the recent newspaper articles and messages reacting to Sheriff Hayes's death, I was touched to realize that the appreciation of Etowah County's citizens for Sheriff Hayes's unrelenting public service is only surpassed by their love for him as a husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend who will be missed tremendously. Alabama was indeed lucky to claim him as one of her own.

So, in closing, I want to let Sheriff Hayes' family know how much I appreciate his service, his professionalism, and his dedication to the people of Etowah County and the State of Alabama. I know that words cannot adequately express the loss being felt right now in Etowah County, but we can all be assured that Etowah County and our State are better places because of Sheriff Hayes' leadership. Let his life be an example for those of us who continue to serve in public office.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE V. IRONS, JR., M.D.

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I commend Dr. George V. Irons, Jr., M.D., native Alabamian, for his outstanding achievements as one of our Nation's foremost cardiologists.

Dr. Irons has treated the hearts of Americans for over five decades. He graduated from the Medical College of Alabama, earning the highest grades

ever recorded in the school's history, straight A-plus. Since that time, his professional accomplishments have been many.

While at the Medical College of Alabama, he was selected by the American Medical Association as one of the top two medical students in the nation. For his superior scholastic record, leadership and service, he won the Stuart Graves Award, as the Medical School's top student.

After military duty as a flight surgeon, Captain, U.S. Air Force, internship and residency, chief resident in cardiology, Dr. Irons joined the Duke University Medical School Faculty in 1964, where he was named fellow in cardiovascular diseases.

Dr. Irons' career has truly been notable. Since 1966, he has been in active practice in Charlotte, NC, as the first board certified cardiologist in western North Carolina. Dr. Irons was Founder and is president of Mid-Carolina Cardiology, a premiere coronary care provider.

As a high school junior, Irons won the prestigious Bausch & Lomb Award, as America's top science student—a nationwide science talent search based on competitive examinations sponsored by the University of Rochester, NY. As the winner, he was offered a substantial scholarship, which he declined, to attend Samford University.

He graduated from Woodlawn High School with a perfect academic record, first in his class, and served as president of the student body. At Howard College—now Samford University—he continued his course, finishing a rigorous 4 year pre-med curriculum in 35 months with a perfect 3.0—first in his class. For his excellence, he was awarded the John R. Mott Trophy and as the outstanding graduating senior, he won the Birmingham Exchange Club Trophy, Danforth Award, and the ODK National Leadership Award. He also found time to letter in varsity track and win the conference championship in his event.

As a distinguished cardiologist, he was inducted as fellow into the American College of Cardiology and received a special Award of Merit with Citation from the National Association of Cardiologists for his distinctive research contributions to the science of coronary disease. Only eight physicians have been so honored in the Association's history. Dr. Irons' research has been published worldwide in leading medical journals.

This year, Dr. Irons was named one of Samford University's Distinguished Alumnus. Samford University is one of America's finest liberal arts universities, founded and serving in the Christian tradition. To be selected Distinguished Alumnus, the nominee must be distinguished in their professional career, community and church involvement.

I would like to commend Dr. Irons, achievements, research, and devotion to superior patient care. He exhibits

tremendous dedication to the science of coronary disease to provide a better life for our citizens through more improved medical technology and treatment.

I proudly salute Dr. Irons, one of Alabama's great native sons, for his extraordinary service to medicine and this latest honor as a Samford University Distinguished Alumnus.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2546. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 5:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. MURTHA, Mr. DICKS, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. OBEY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. LEWIS of California as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, without amendment.

S. 2206. An act to provide technical corrections to Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) to extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Sant as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 513. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to enhance the protection of credit ratings of members of the reserve component who serve on active duty in support of a contingency operation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1567. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2949. An act to authorize grants to the Eurasia Foundation, and for other purposes.